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- Comment. It appears doubtful that Ulbricht would make the statements mentioned in the present report. East German economists are well aware of the fact that the rearmament of the GDR would mean an economic setback for the country, but it would be too much against the grain with Ulbricht to admit such a fact openly.

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REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY

SUBJECT

Speech by Walter Ulbricht

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1. A conference of the SED Central Committee was held on 7 December 1954. On this occasion, Ulbricht made a speech on the political situation. In this speech, the East German leader pointed out that the present situation was worse than during the fight for the ratification of EDC. After the ratification of the Paris agreements, West Germany would rearm without being subject to strict controls. It was therefore necessary to make sacrifices for the security of the fatherland. The security of East Germany would only be guaranteed within the framework of an Eastern security system. The KVP would be made into a cadre army after the fashion of the former Reichswehr. In addition, short-term training courses would be organized for all those fit for military service.
2. Ulbricht also stated that this development implied the possibility of disturbances in the industrial production and in the realization of economic planning. Intensive efforts were, therefore, required in the field of political training in order to meet the anxieties existing among the working population regarding the future of the GDR. Conferences of party activists should be held all over East Germany for a discussion of the recent government declaration and the necessity of rearming the GDR. All civil servants and state employees should be included in this political indoctrination. Ulbricht also mentioned that the GDR could reckon on the generous help of the Eastern Bloc, which recognized that the GDR represented the first line of their common defense.

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